

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the examiner's review and consideration of the prior submission and subsequent allowance of claims 1 and 4.

The examiner objected to the drawings with regard to limitations recited in claim 2. Specifically, the examiner asserts certain features of the "reinforcement member" as recited in claim 2 must be shown or the features canceled from the claim. Further, the examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In response and without addressing the substance of the objection and rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 2 and 3 without prejudice while reserving the right to later pursue such claims, if desired. Additionally, Applicants have deleted Fig. 5 from the drawings and revised the labels on Figs. 6-8 to account for the deletion of Fig. 5 (*i.e.*, originally labeled Figs. 6-8 are revised to be labeled Figs. 5-7, respectively). Applicants likewise amended the specification by deleting material related to Fig. 5 and renumbering references to Figs. 6-8 in the specification to be to Figs. 5-7, respectively.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request review and reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims, namely claims 1 and 4.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 6, 2004

By: 
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Attachments: **Replacement Drawings (FIGS. 5, 6 and 7)**